

Abstract:

Instrument sterilization is one of the general principles of infection control in the field of Dentistry. Sterilization is physical or chemical elimination of all the forms of live microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi. Sterilization is an absolute state, not a rated state. According to the proper principles of sterilization and prevention of infectious diseases, the purpose of this study is to assess the Ardabil dentists' Knowledge about principles and procedures for sterilization.

Materials and Methods:

In this descriptive temporal study, which was carried on dentists of Ardabil, the awareness of dentists about the principles and procedures for correct sterilization method was reviewed. The used Method was such a way in which a 2-part questionnaire was developed and after completing the questionnaires by persons taking part in the tests, the total informations collected. Then the collected data was imported to SPSS software and subsequently was analyzed with statistical tests.

Results:

59.8 percent of subjects who answered questionnaires, were male and 40.2% were female. Regarding to the results of above study, the dentists nominated autoclaves as the most appropriate and most effective means of sterilization. Also according to the results, 96.7% of dentists believed that the most resistant form of microorganisms is bacteria spores which can be completely removed by autoclaves. The whole studied dentists had a normal performance near the average rate. 66.3% of above dentists believed that Alcohol concentration of 70% to 79% is more suitable for instrument disinfection. According to the answer of 71.7 percent of

dentists, the best condition for sterilization by autoclave is the temperature of 121 centigrade and time of 15 to 45 minutes. Also, 89.1% of dentists said that the sterilization by oven during a 120 minutes of time and a temperature of 160 centigrade is more proper than any other methods. 71.7% of dentists, mentioned the accurate information about the appropriate method of sterilization of instruments such as handpieces and turbines.

Conclusion:

Results of this study showed that Ardabil dentists knowledge about the principles and procedures of sterilization is in moderate state; those also indicate that performing the continuing education programs in this field are necessary.

Key words:

Sterilization, autoclave, infection control, cross infection.